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Letter dated 17 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that as a result of the military actions carried out recently by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel factions in South Kordofan and in the Blue Nile States, the Sudanese Armed Forces responded to those military attacks consistent with its obligation enshrined in the national Constitution of the Sudan to secure peace and stability and preserve the territorial integrity in the Sudan.

I further have the honour to inform you that those rebels were repelled and a big number of them crossed the international border with the Republic of South Sudan and they were hosted and assisted by the Government of South Sudan. However, few pockets of those rebels are found in border areas inside the Sudan. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan has immediately provided the necessary relief assistance to the needy people in those areas recaptured from the rebels and the humanitarian situation in those areas is stable and normal.

I further have the honour to convey that the Government of the Sudan has been and still is cooperating closely with the United Nations bodies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in channelling the relief material to the needy people as explained above. In this regard I would like to cite the recent visit of Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, to the Sudan, during which she met the Minister of Social Welfare, who informed her about the Government's efforts exerted to meet the needs of those who are affected by the military actions carried out by the rebels in those areas. The Minister has reiterated to Ms. Amos the will and readiness of the Government to continue cooperating with all United Nations agencies and credible national and international non-governmental organizations.

While conveying this information, I would like to reiterate in my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations that I am working closely with Ms. Amos to find suitable ways and means to enhance our cooperation in this regard. It is worth mentioning that I agreed with her today that we meet at a working lunch on Thursday, 19 January 2012 to further our mutual cooperation.

I have the honour also to refer to the fact that there are certain circles who propagate that there are 500,000 people affected by the conflict in the two areas.

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Those numbers are incorrect and erroneous and I would like to challenge those circles to provide the exact whereabouts of those affected people. Furthermore, those who crossed the borders and went to South Sudan are not civilians but combatants, who play havoc in the two areas as I alluded to in the introduction of my message.

While sharing the above information, we urge the Council to exercise prudence and rely only on verified information from credible sources.

I would be grateful if this letter would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative